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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REQUEST**

**FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS**

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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao. No 16184, 1948. (Information requested.)

## REPLY ON NAN-CHAO CONFEDERACY

In a report entitled "The Nan-chao Confederacy" appearing in the Ta Kung Pao, 14 October 1948, an account was given of friction between tribal headman Tao Ching-pan (Pao-t'u) and Lung Sheng-wu, publisher of the Kun-ming Kuan-ch'a.

On 6 November 1948 a 1,500-word answer was received from Tso, in which he accused Jung of fabricating lies and deceiving the public, and described him as a deceitful person indulging in covert attack in an effort to satisfy an old grudge. He declared that the native tribes in western Yunnan were treated with complete equality and denied that he had intentions of separating his tribes from the Chinese Republic.

Tao also denied that he had purchased weapons at auction sales at US quartermaster depots in Myitkyina and Bhamo, Burma. He stated that to his knowledge the only items sold at the depots were automobiles, machinery, food and clothing, but not rifles. He invited reporters to verify his statement with the Indian and overseas Chinese merchants who had taken over the depots. Tao further denied that he had gone to Burma after the war or had been arrested by Myitkyina authorities, as indicated in the Hun-ming Hsuan-ah's article.

Checking on the report that Tao was leading a movement to establish an independent confederacy, reporters corroborated his declaration that there was no basis for such a movement and that the aim of the tribal leaders was self-government within the Republic, not independence. In his letter, Tao asserted that he had no intention of creating disturbances. He offered as support for his statement the fact that the Yunnan tribes approved a conference to be held at Tsi-ch'ang in Szechwan Province, regarding creation of a special administrative area for the native tribes of Yunnan, Szechwan, and Sikang, which was called by the chairman of the President's Ch'ung-ch'ing headquarters. This news was carried by the 4 January 1948 issue of the Min-i Jih-pao, published in Sin-min.

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Reports from several quarters in Pao-shan, Yunnan Province, indicate that tribal chieftains in the T'eng-ch'ung Hsien--Lung-ling Hsien border area have dispatched agents to Pao-shan and along branch lines of the Yunnan--Burma Highway to raise troops and horses. Unarmed men are given 100 Kiang-yuan (a silver currency) ration money and armed ones 200 Kiang-yuan. Some reports indicate that chieftains are planning uprisings; others, that they are conscripting troops in obedience to orders from the 12th District Special Office to organize joint defense units. Reporters believe the latter explanation to be correct.

A change in policy has also been noted in treatment of the headmen by provincial authorities. Newspapers and magazines are no longer allowed to reveal instances of defects in the headman system. Plans to place government establishment bureaus in hsien have been suspended. It also seems that the policy of transferring authority over tribes from local chiefs to government officials is now being reversed.

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